

Media Release

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ARTHUR GORRIE HONOURED BY MINISTER'S AWARD

The GEO-operated Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to the protection of the Queensland environment.

The Healthy Waterways Awards honour the efforts of individuals, groups and organisations actively helping to protect and improve South East Queensland's waterways.

The awards aim to raise the awareness of waterway health issues, recognise those making a difference and inspire others to take action.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre was honoured as:

- Winner of the Community Award category (Recognising initiatives which have resulted from community action or demonstrate a high level of participation by individuals, organisations or community groups)
- Winner of the Minister's Grand Prize (Worth \$10,000 and awarded to the most innovative and outstanding winner of all categories)

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is part of a unique collaboration called *Connecting Community for Waterways* that brings together the correctional centre, Natura Education, Save our Waterways Now, Gold Coast Catchment Association, Nerang River Keepers, All Saints Anglican School, and the City of Gold Coast.

Connecting Community for Waterways involves students and other members of the community collecting native seeds which are then delivered to Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre for further propagation by inmates enrolled in the centre's horticulture training program.

More than 100,000 plants have now been grown and returned to the community for planting in waterway restoration and education initiatives.

As a result Arthur Gorrie's inmates have gained valuable skills that assisted them find work upon release and allowed them the opportunity to be involved in an outstanding community reparation program.

Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Seath Holswich, announced the awards recently at a dinner attended by over 300 guests.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre general manager Troy Ittensohn said that to be a member of the collaboration is “tremendously rewarding”.

“The chance for our inmates to make a positive contribution to the community is proving to be immensely worthwhile,” he said.

The \$10,000 will allow our collaboration partner Save our Waterways Now to continue this great initiative,” he said.

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About The GEO Group Australia

The GEO Group Australia is Australia’s largest provider of outsourced correctional services. With 1,500 employees, The GEO Group Australia provides safe and secure services to the Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland Governments through the management of correctional centres and the provision of primary health care services. GEO delivers critical public services that are cost effective and represent value for money for the taxpayer. With security and public safety as a priority, The GEO Group Australia intervenes with the 3,500 offenders in our care to reduce reoffending and prevent the community becoming victims of crime. The GEO Group Australia is part of The GEO Group, Inc. the world’s largest international provider of outsourced correctional services, with over 80,000 offenders and 116 facilities under management across four continents. For further information please visit www.geogroup.com.au

About Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is Queensland’s largest correctional centre. Holding 890 prisoners, Arthur Gorrie is primarily a remand facility, holding those committed to custody by the courts pending their trial. Approximately 3700 prisoners pass through Arthur Gorrie every year. Arthur Gorrie has been managed by The GEO Group Australia since it opened in 1992. For further information visit: <http://www.geogroup.com.au/arthur-gorrie-correctional-centre.html>

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